

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 2-5 and 8-11 are canceled.

Claims 7 and 14 are amended herein. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments would be found in, for example, FIG. 12 at S74, and page 25, line 15 through page 26, line 1 of the specification.

Claims 1, 6, 12 and 13 are allowed.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 6, 7 and 12-14 are currently pending in this application.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 7 AND 14 UNDER 35 U.S.C § 102(e) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY THACKSON (U.S. PATENT 6,295,513)

Claim 7 as amended specifically recites, amongst other novel features, **"prohibiting means, responsive to definition of the part by said defining means, for prohibiting revision or modification of the part with an earlier version number"**. (Emphasis added). Somewhat similar amendments are made to claim 14. Thackston fails to disclose, teach or suggest these features.

Instead, Thackston discloses an integrated computer-based system and method for undertaking an engineering design and development effort in a virtual collaborative environment by identifying qualified fabricators for manufacturing a part design based on fabricator capability information stored in a global registry database wherein during formal PDM, the documentation requirements and data management are enhanced. See, column 1, lines 19-29 and column 29, lines 23-25. For example, version numbers may be assigned to each baseline part design model and to each working copy part design model. A revision history of the baseline part design model may be maintained. Strict check-in and check-out procedures may be enforced. Digital signatures may be required for any change to the baseline part design model and associated PDM documents (specifications and the like). See, Thackston at, for example, column 29, lines 20-48.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Thackston fails to disclose, teach or suggest "prohibiting means, responsive to definition of the part by said defining means, for prohibiting revision or modification of the part with an earlier version number", as specifically recited by

Applicant in, for example, claim 7. Instead, Thackston merely teaches how version numbers may be assigned to each baseline part design model and to each working copy part design model. A revision history of the baseline part design model may be maintained. See, Thackston at, for example, column 29, lines 20-48. The feature of a "prohibiting means ... prohibiting revision or modification of the part with an earlier version number" is absent in Thackston. Further understanding and appreciation for Applicant's claimed invention as recited in claim 7 would be found in, for example, FIG. 12 at S74, and page 25, line 15 through page 26, line 1 of the specification.

The above comments are specifically directed to claim 7. However, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences of amended claim 14 over Thackston.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

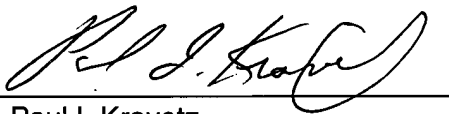
Respectfully submitted,

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